

Rebecca Klein
Chairman

Brett A. Perlman
Commissioner

W. Lane Lanford
Executive Director



Public Utility Commission of Texas

September 26, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: TRS State Certification Application

In the Matter of

Telecommunications Services for)	
Individuals with Hearing and)	
Speech Disabilities, and the)	CC Docket No. 98-67
Americans with Disabilities Act of)	
1990)	

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (hereinafter referred as Texas PUC) hereby submits its application to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for State Certification of our state's Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS). In 1989 the Texas Legislature directed the Texas PUC to establish a statewide TRS for all Texans, including the deaf, hard-of-hearing, speech-impaired, deaf-blind and hearing. The Texas PUC awarded a five-year contract for the provision of TRS to Sprint in March 1990. The service, henceforth referred to as Relay Texas, carried its first call on September 1, 1990. The Texas PUC also awarded a five-year contract to Sprint in 1995 and again in September 2000. The current Sprint contract continues until August 31, 2005.

Attached is the Texas PUC's narrative document describing Relay Texas in accordance with the requirements set forth in the FCC's Public Notice released on May 1, 2002. The FCC's rules for the provision of TRS pursuant to Title IV of the Americans with Disabilities Act



(ADA), 47 U.S.C. § 225, are codified at 47 CFR § § 64.601-605. Pursuant to 47 C.F.R § 64.605(b), a state desiring FCC state certification of its TRS program must establish that:

1. The state program meets all operational, technical, and functional minimum standards contained in 47 C.F.R § 64.604;
2. The State program makes available adequate procedures and remedies for enforcing the requirements of the state program; and
3. Where a state program exceeds the mandatory minimum standards contained in § 64.604, the state establishes that its program in no way conflicts with federal law.

The Texas PUC's documents show that Relay Texas meets the minimum standards as outlined above. Relay Texas provided individuals who have a hearing or speech disability or a hearing-visual disability with telephone services that are functionally equivalent to those provided to individuals without such disabilities. Relay Texas enables a two-way communication between an individual who uses a Text Telephone (TTY) or other non-voice terminal device (including video conferencing) and an individual who does not use such a device. Relay Texas provides telephone interpreting service between people who can hear and those who have a disability of hearing or speech, or both. Relay Texas provides unrestricted state-wide and nation-wide TRS.

Since the creation of Relay Texas, the Texas PUC, Sprint, and citizens who have a hearing or speech disability have worked closely to ensure that Relay Texas is a high quality TRS that meets the needs of its users. The Texas Legislature created a fifteen-member Relay Texas Advisory Committee to assist the Texas PUC in overseeing the TRS provided by Relay Texas. Members of the Relay Texas Advisory Committee represent various groups, including the following:

1. people who are hearing-impaired (deaf, hard-of-hearing)
2. People who are speech-impaired
3. People who are deaf-blind
4. people who have disabilities other than those of hearing and speech
5. other consumers
6. telephone industry representatives (local and long distance)

As of this writing, more than eighty percent of the members of the Committee represent disabled groups.

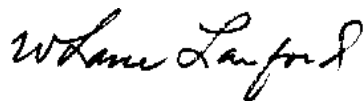
Contact persons regarding this application are as follows:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Lane Lanford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

W. Lane Lanford
Executive Director